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Editor Scores Rebel Thinking

Advises Mississippi Not To Consider Racial Woe As Only Problem Ahead

Special to The Commercial Appeal

UNIVERSITY, Miss., June 27. — "Mississippi must reach for greatness," J. O. Emmerich, editor of the McComb Enterprise Journal, told Ole Miss law students at a luncheon on the campus Thursday. "But," he said, "Mississippi cannot reach for greatness if we persist in thinking that the racial problem is the one and only problem confronting us."

The luncheon was sponsored by Phi Alpha Delta and Phi Delta Phi legal fraternities and was attended by Chancellor J. D. Williams and members of the law school faculty.

Emmerich said, "We cannot reach for greatness by complaining that we live in a period of historical conflict. Who are we to think that we should be history's privileged exception?" he asked.

"Nor can we reach greatness with conformity for it is conflict, not conformity, that keeps freedom alive. Nor can we reach for greatness by opposing change, nor through our prejudice." He added, "sectionalism, provincialism, thinking that everybody is against us or that we are not a previous part of the American union, cannot put greatness within our reach."

Emmerich said Mississippi cannot reach greatness through erroneous premises. He said that Mississippi has gone through a siege of invalid premises and charged that the Mississippi bar had failed to enlighten the people when many of these erroneous premises were accepted as valid. He particularly named interposition and nullification as being among these false doctrines accepted as valid by the people.

Emmerich said that there were four positive factors that can lead to greatness. He said, "the genius for greatness must stem from cultivated minds. The foundation for greatness must be a responsible electorate. The vehicle for greatness must be courageous and dedicated leadership and the spark of greatness is the will to lift the standards of all of our people."

"There is nothing in history — dark as much of it is—" he said, "to dissuade us from believing that man's highest ideals will ultimately be sustained."

Emmerich was presented to the law school student body and faculty by John Gordon Roach, a senior Ole Miss law student. The program was arranged by Joe Gordon, also a student in the law school.